

Watertown Cultural Council Minutes

February 11, 2026

7:00-8:30pm, Watertown City Hall 3rd floor Meeting Room

Present: Lawrence Kessenich, Elektra Newman, Trisha O'Connell, Greg Papazian, Phyllis Perrone, Lois Pond, Meg Ramsdell, Angela Tramontano, Rebekah Zincavage

Absent: Nick Haddad, Morgan Henderson, Nerida White, Sally Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with a quorum present.

1. Minutes

- December 2025 minutes were approved: Lawrence motioned, Greg seconded, all in favor

2. River of Light partnership discussion

- Liz Helfer will give presentation in March instead of at this meeting. Members should come prepared with questions for discussion.

3. Voices of Home project cancellation

- The Voices of Home project was cancelled; grantee wants to shift to another project. Members need to decide whether to a) agree that the grant can be used for the new project or b) save the money for next year's grant cycle
- Members expressed concern that the proposed project is a new idea, not a scaled down Voice of Home project, WCC does not have a full application, and that the FY26 grant application cycle is closed.
 - Action: Rebekah motioned that since it is a new project, the grantee cannot use the money for it. All in favor-motion passed. The money will go back into the WCC account for next year.
 - Lois will respond to the grantee's email and cc their WCC liaison (Sally)

4. FY26 grant status

- Morgan sent out a list of grantees who still need to complete and send in their forms so the money can be released.
- Members should continue to send reminders and resend forms if needed.
- Some grantees have asked for high-resolution logos. Greg will send one to Morgan that can be used with other electronic paperwork for grantees.
- Grantee packet will be updated for FY27 to include guidelines for logo use.

5. WCC website update

- Phyllis reviewed the WCC website with the city of Watertown and identified areas that needed updating, including links to where the item needs updating. Lois will send the list to Liz and Jean. The old WCC website has been closed. Some issues identified:
 - Grantee lists for 2023 and beyond need to be included
 - Mission statement needs updating
 - Dates need to be checked and updated if needed
 - Include link to MCC for application

6. Grantee reception

- The grantee reception is scheduled for May 13, 2026
- Lois will check to see if the Mosesian Center has space available
- Other potential locations:
 - Mount Auburn Cemetery: charges amount above WCC budget
 - Gore Place: free
 - Armenian Museum: charges \$250
- Greg will talk to Jason at the Armenian Museum again. He will also ask his son if he is available to give violin performance at reception.
- Celebration committee formed: Phyllis and Lawrence
- Lois will send the evites once location is decided.

7. Other

- Discussion about WCC officers for next year postponed until March.

8. With no other discussion items, Lois proposed to adjourn the meeting. Lawrence motioned, Trisha seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

-Angela Tramontano, secretary